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Letter from Anna Clemson to Elias Baker, 1863 November 10

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to accompany me, is another of the
many kindnesses, I have received
from you, for which you will find
me ever grateful. I do not hear
from Mr. C. & my mother, which
causes me great anxiety. Indeed
my dear Sir, I do not wish to com-
plain, & I know where so many suf-
fer I must bear my part, but I
can hardly stand up under the
heavy load I have to bear, which
every day seems to increase, & shall
feel great relief if I am only rid
of this place. Every day increases the
difficulty, almost impossibility, of
getting hands, but this as I said in
my last, only renders it more cer-
tain, that an active man, who
works himself, would do well. Prices
of all kinds of provisions are fabulous,
& the supply not equal to the demand,
& it will grow worse rather than bet-
ter, for we are only at the beginning.
While on this subject, I have always
forgotten to mention, that the want
of Mr. C.'s consent, does not affect
the legality of any sale I make, but
is only a kind of renouncing of
dower, which in case of my death
would give him certain claims. I
could however engage, the lawyer
says, to procure this consent, & de-
liver it when received which

November 10th 1863

Dear Sir,

I am in the receipt of your
two last letters. One arrived to day,
& the other last Saturday, just as I was
starting for Baltimore, whence I re-
turned late last night, quite sick with
& dreadful cold, which furnace
fires always give me, & I am really
unable to write now, but I must
answer your proposition, which I
consider a godsend. As I under-
stand you, you will purchase the
place, & pay me interest on the
money, for five years, & at the end
of that time, either pay, or return
the place, at the option of either. If
you return it, I to pay the improve-
ments. I should prefer to make
it a sale, from now, with the property
for security, which would be simpler.

I answer the same purpose, as if you did not pay, at that time, I should have the land again, but I am willing to take the proposition as it stands, if you do not like this for the improvements - I suppose you mean all necessary for the farm, such as fencing &c. I told you, as you say, I would take \$10,000 cash down, rather than miss selling the place, the M^r C. always held it at \$15,000, which if you will remember, was the sum we then was to have inserted in our agreement, but I will take the interest on \$12,000, & you pay that sum at the end of the five years, as I think, the not the worth of the place, still under the circumstances I am doing right to take it. I think you had better come down, as soon as convenient, & let the matter be settled, for many reasons. I will then tell you my plans more fully, than it is

would obviate all difficulty. I
have, as I wrote you, had the
proper legal form drawn up, &
have sent several copies to him, so
I hope one may reach him.

Florida is quite well again, &
much obliged for your kind wishes.
He has been looking every day
for a letter from his cousin Anna.
Her cousin Sarah has written several
times. We hope Mr Baker & Anne
will accompany you, on your next
visit & stay as long as they can
make it convenient, or we can
render the home pleasant.
Mr Lu is still in New York, & says
nothing of returning, so we are
quite alone.

Florida joins me in much love to
all the family circle & request you
will give her love to Carrie McClelland
& let her know how C. is.

Yours truly

Anna C. Clemons